the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on the Ozone layer;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India impressed upon the developed countries that the technology to switchover to the substitutes of ozone depleting substances like Chloro-Flouro-Carbons (CFCs) must be made available to the developing countries free of strings;

(c) if so, what is the response thereto; and

(d) what are the measures Government propose to take to protect the ozone layer ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. India's position on this matter was widely appreciated as being representative of all developing countries. The meeting agreed that the accelerated phase-out schedule adopted by the developed countries will not apply to the developing countries until a comprehensive review in 1995 of transfer of technology and financial resources to meet the incremental costs.

(d) India has acceded to the Montreal Protocol in order to strengthen the international efforts to protect the depleting stratospheric ozone layer. At the national level, a strategy is being finalised for the phase-out of ozone depleting substances. Simultaneously, work has commenced on the preparation of the country programme and projects to be posed for assistance from the Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol.

Increase in Tobacco consumption

*411. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the extent of increase in tobacco consumption during the last three years;

(b) what is the rate of acceleration of its consumption;

(c) what is the number of cigarettes, chewing tobacco and Bidi manufacturing units in India;

(d) whether it is a fact that per-capita consumption of tobacco in India is the highest amongst the countries worldover;

(e) whether Government have initiated any steps to reduce tobacco consumption; and

(f) whether Government propose to ban tobacco advertisements ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) As per report of the Tobacco Board, the consumption of tobacco in India during the last three years has remained almost stagnant.

(c) There are 28 Cigarette manufacturing units in India. Information regarding chewing tobacco and Beedi manufacturing units are not available.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Yes, Sir. Government have initiated several measures like education about the ill effects of tobacco, prohibition of smoking in public places besides statutory warning on Cigarette packs to the effect that smoking is injurious to health.

(f) A proposal in this regard is under consideration.

Special Grants for Nagpur and Hyderabad for National Highways and Ring Roads

*412. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any request for allocation of more funds for National Highways and Ring Roads in Nagpur and Hyderabad;

(b) if so, what is the total central allocation for these two cities for the current and next financial years;